

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

ANDERTON, R. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 124-916

Serial No. unknown

Group:

Filed: January 2, 2002

Examiner:

For: IMAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD

\* \* \* \* \*

January 2, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the imaging system is stationary and the container is moving.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1 where the speed of the container relative to the receive antenna is measured during at least part of the data recording, and this measurement is used as a parameter when creating the complete image.

5. A system as claimed in claim 1 where the speed of the container is controlled for the duration of data recording.

6. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the axis of the receive antenna is not perpendicular to the direction of relative movement of the container and receive antenna.

7. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein a plurality of receive antennas are used to gather data from a plurality of reception volumes.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the image may be manipulated to allow views of the container contents from different angles.

10. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each receive antenna comprises a plurality of receiving elements,

13. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the received volume is scanned by changing with time the direction of each receive beam pattern.

15. A system as claimed in claim 13 wherein a focal plane of the reception volume viewed from the receiver antenna comprises an area from which no radiation is received during a complete cycle of the scanning system that is completely surrounded by an area from which radiation is received during the scan.

16. A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein a second array of receive elements is provided that is displaced from the first array so as to receive energy from a different focal plane from the first array.

17. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the image data is analysed by image recognition software that is pre programmed with images or characteristics of contraband items, such that when a match is found between the image data and at least one of the contraband items an alert is sent to an operator.

20. A method as claimed in claim 18 where the speed of the container relative to the receive antenna is measured as the reception volume is inside the container, and this measurement is used as a parameter when creating the complete image.

21. A method as claimed in claim 18 where the speed of the container is controlled for the duration the reception volume is inside the container.

22. A portal incorporating an imaging system as claimed in claim 1

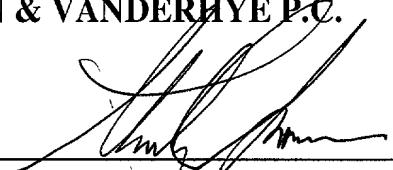
**REMARKS**

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Stanley C. Spooner  
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:ecb  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

3. A system as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the imaging system is stationary and the container is moving.

4. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 where the speed of the container relative to the receive antenna is measured during at least part of the data recording, and this measurement is used as a parameter when creating the complete image.

5. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 where the speed of the container is controlled for the duration of data recording.

6. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein the axis of the receive antenna is not perpendicular to the direction of relative movement of the container and receive antenna.

7. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein a plurality of receive antennas are used to gather data from a plurality of reception volumes.

8. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein the image may be manipulated to allow views of the container contents from different angles.

10. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein each receive antenna comprises a plurality of receiving elements,

13. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein the received volume is scanned by changing with time the direction of each receive beam pattern.

15. A system as claimed in claims 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein a focal plane of the reception volume viewed from the receiver antenna comprises an area from which no radiation is received during a complete cycle of the scanning system that is completely surrounded by an area from which radiation is received during the scan.

16. A system as claimed in claims 10 ~~to 15~~ wherein a second array of receive elements is provided that is displaced from the first array so as to receive energy from a different focal plane from the first array.

17. A system as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ 1 wherein the image data is analysed by image recognition software that is pre programmed with images or characteristics of contraband items, such that when a match is found between the image data and at least one of the contraband items an alert is sent to an operator.

20. A method as claimed in claims 18 ~~or 19~~ where the speed of the container relative to the receive antenna is measured as the reception volume is inside the container, and this measurement is used as a parameter when creating the complete image.

21. A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 18 to 20~~ where the speed of the container is controlled for the duration the reception volume is inside the container.

22. A portal incorporating an imaging system as claimed in claims 1-17